7: Gt. Brit., Colonial Office G-3 (1949-50) 1951 MM1 Aden
Hadhramaut mm2

Plant Introductions

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242 Sann hemp and Dolichus beans were introduced from the Sudan. Tepary beans, bunch-type groundnuts, and velvet beans were introduced from Uganda. These new introductions were planted in observation plots in the Abyan district.

The introduction of deciduous fruits and of citrus for planting in the Audhali Sultanate continued.

Development Schemes

654 *The Avyan Board.* During 1949 the scheme, now furnished with sufficient capital to embark on its work as a proving scheme, developed at a satisfactory rate in all fields where adequate staff, machinery, and materials could be mustered.

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332 A rebuilt D.7 Caterpillar tractor complete with bulldozer and carry-all scraper, and three D.4 Caterpillars, one with bulldozer attachment, were obtained through the Crown Agents. These rebuilt tractors were delivered without any spares and gave a certain amount of trouble, but were responsible, together with a D.6 Caterpillar already in the hands of the Board, for great progress in irrigation construction.

Important extensions were made to the Ba Tes and Na'aza systems, while two new diversion systems were opened on the Wadi Hassan.

The tractors were generally worked as a fleet, with a mass of ox power owned or hired by the Board. Often 200 yokes of oxen—each with a scraper attached and each yoke with its driver/scraper operator in attendance—worked alongside the tractors. These were used for ripping and drawing masses of earth close to the dykes, which were then finished off by the oxen.

The value of the D.7 was judged to be equal to 150 to 200 yokes of oxen in earth-moving capacity, but for finishing off work and consolidation the use of oxen has been found to pay. Earth-moving costs have been low, and on short hauls of work of moderate height costs have not exceeded 6 annas per cubic metre.

654 Survey work has accelerated and a staff of 6 surveyors was at work in the field at the end of 1949.

A great deal of the Board's effort was devoted to the construction of offices, workshops and staff houses. At the end of 1949 substantial progress had been made and building, apart from some additions to staff houses and a projected pilot ginnery, had been completed.

The Board staff was increased considerably. On irrigation matters the Board continued to receive advice from Mr. N. Simansky, Irrigation Adviser to the Government of Jordan, who visited Abyan twice during the year. In September the staff was strengthened by the addition of an Irrigation Engineer, Mr. Douglas Hall, who joined the Board as Chief Engineer. In November Mr. B. May joined the Board on secondment, as Chief Accountant, the office having remained vacant since the resignation of the first Accountant Officer at the end of March. These two appointments were long overdue, and serious arrears of work had to be faced by both officers on taking up their appointments. In the